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Francisco Vicente Guterres
Pensão Floresta
Avenida João Crisóstomo, nº 37
1050 Lisboa
Portugal

To the Most Honourable Foreign Minister of
New Zealand
Mr. Don Mckinnon.
Parliament Buildings,
Wellington,
New Zealand.

Dear Sir,

Before making our request, we would like first to wish you happiness and success in all your endeavours.

Please find herewith our application for your consideration. We have made it in accordance with the request made to us by your excellency the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs for New Zealand. We are very pleased and grateful for your interest.

We are well aware that New Zealand is a nation that upholds human rights, and defends human rights, both at home and on the international stage. The East Timor issue is certainly an issue of human rights. We know we have already received assistance from new Zealand on 12 November, 1991, i. e. when a New Zealand journalist named Kamal Bamadhaj gave up his life for our East Timor cause in the Santa Cruz Cemetery Massacre, Dili. Thus although we are in Portugal, we remain adamant, and all our thoughts and dreams lie in New Zealand.

We herewith request your excellency the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs to consider our application for migration on humanitarian grounds. Our purpose in wanting to come to New Zealand is to develop our potential and ourselves for the future of our East Timor.

There is a problem we should apprise you of. When we entered the grounds of the New Zealand embassy in Jakarta we did not bring any documentation with us, such as diplomas, birth certificates, and other sorts of documents related to our studies in the University of Timor - Dili. Will you be able to assist us in continuing our studies in New Zealand even in the absence of this important paperwork?

This is all for now. Please pardon us if we have said anything inappropriate or displeasing to your excellency the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs.

It is our fervent hope that this application will be accepted. We are awaiting the response of your excellency the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Don Mckinnon.

This is our response to the request of your excellency the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs for New Zealand.

May God always be with us,

Lisbon, 8th March, 1996

José Silano de Freitas Soares

José Jaime Francisco Soares

Filomeno das Neves

Isac Correia da Silva

Francisco Vicente Guterres